



PUBLIC HEALTH  
ADMINISTRATION

# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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July 20, 1999

AGENDA: August 10, 1999

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Santa Cruz County  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: **KIDS Database First Annual Report**

Dear Members of the Board:

Several years ago, County agencies were experiencing a disturbing increase in the rising cost of Aid for Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC). As the result of focused efforts by the Probation Department, HRA and HAS, these trends were reversed. Over the last two years, your Board has received a series of joint departmental reports on interagency efforts which altered the County's practices for children at risk of being placed into a foster care setting. In November 1996 and January 1997, your Board approved staff positions and contracted services to implement pilot strategies in the Human Resources Agency's Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation. Each of these strategies is based on a System of Care concept which includes collaboration between Children's Mental Health, the Human Resources Agency, and the Probation Department. Your Board received a comprehensive report on these projects in February 1998.

One of the major gaps identified in 1996 was the lack of an interagency data system to track services to high-risk youth across agencies. Each of the agencies responsible for out-of-home placement had its own State mandated data tracking system, none of which were compatible with the other. Many of the information needs of the County for serving these high-risk youth in the most clinically and cost effective ways were not served by these State systems. In response, a locally driven interagency database system was developed, the KIDS Database, which became operational as of July 1, 1997.

Attached is the first annual report generated from information in the KIDS Database, as well as a copy of the KIDS Database Training Manual. This first report, which covers information from July 1997 through March 1999, describes:

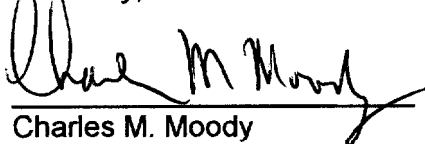
1. History of the KIDS Database and lessons learned in undertaking this type of interagency project.
2. Demographic data of Santa Cruz youth in out-of-home placement including age, sex, ethnicity related to placing agencies and types of placements.
3. Costs of and numbers of youth in placement since fiscal year 1996-97.
4. Analysis of the savings associated with each of our EPSDT funded family preservation projects, the Gradual Return to Opportunities and Wellness (GROW) and Supportive Intervention Services (SIS) Programs.

This report was prepared by an inter-departmental group under the leadership of Dane Cervine, Chief of Children's Mental Health for the County. Results are very positive and the data fully supports the programs that are in place. We believe the success of these programs to date are a tribute to the extensive interagency collaboration and expertise that has gone into play to make these programs a reality.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file the KIDS Database Report and KIDS Database Training Manual.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Moody  
Health Services Administrator

CM:DJ:lj

RECOMMENDED:



Susan Mauriello  
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
HSA Administration  
Auditor-Controller  
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services  
Human Resources Agency  
Probation Department